

The Main Stylistic Features of the Baltic Crossbow Brooches in the Migration Period

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Introduction. In the complicated situation of the Great Migration Period in Europe Baltic culture and the territory are recognized by researchers as a most stable area in Central Europe in its permanent development from Roman Iron Age into the Early Middle Ages (Godłowski 1970; Okulicz 1973; Michelbertas, 1986; Tautavičius 1996). However in the middle of the first millenium the Baltic people experienced changes in territory and in their social – economical life, mostly related to the processes of the Great Migration period in Europe. All of the Baltic tribes later mentioned in written sources emerged in the late fourth and fifth centuries (Tautavičius 1996: 44–45, fig. 1). In the middle of the first millenium, the changing population size transformed the network of settlements and domestic intertribal trade routes in the existing ethnic-cultural areas.

In the great changes of the Migration period the Baltic tribes which were living in the huge territory from Samland Peninsula and the Mazurian Lakeland to western and central Lithuania and, as the last year data show, eastern part of Lithuania was involved in this process. Samland Peninsula and Olsztyn culture unit (“mazur-germanische” Kultur) had the most special position in the Migration period. Olsztyn culture unit was unique for this part of Europe because of the wealth of their artifacts, which had features typical to the interregional Germanic culture. Perhaps the hypothesis that Olsztyn group was formed by Galindai, who returned to their homeland, after migrating with the Goths and other tribes, has a real background (Šturms 1950: 22; Nowakowski 1989: 120–123). The fact that some written sources of the beginning of the sixth century mention Baltic and Scandinavian people together among the Goths is an ideal explanation for this phenomenon (Wolfram 1990: 59–83). Samland Peninsula had rich amber deposits and since Roman Iron Age was trading in amber and had close and possible direct contact with Roman Empire. Olsztyn group was involved in amber trade and this was one of the factors of their wealth. During Early Migration Period Samland and Olsztyn group were flourishing areas. Intermediate merchants from western Lithuania and perhaps lower reaches of the Nemunas region were drawn into amber trade. A considerably higher number of amber artifacts occur in the burials of the Lithuanian cemeteries, which belong to the fifth – sixth centuries (Bliujienė 2001b: 171–186). The types of different artifacts and amber beads found in the graves of the fifth – sixth centuries

could evidence an intensive long distance trade in raw materials between the merchants of the coastal area with southern regions.

Geometrical patterns of the fifth–sixth centuries. In the Roman Iron Age Baltic tribes used abundant geometrical patterns as well as open work designs to adorn and embellish their ornaments. In the middle of the fifth century a lot of changes in the geometrical style of Baltic ornaments took place. In the middle of the fifth century some new, never used before geometrical patterns, such as semicircle, triangular and rhombus filled by notches, dots and others additions were especially often used for decoration of ornaments (Fig. 1: 1–2; 2: 2–3, 4). “X” motif started to be used to adorned crossbow fibulae with triangular, bent or narrow feet (Fig. 2: 2). Such geometrical designs as a motif of “linden leaves”, spirals similar to letter “S” and reverse “S”, scrolls, broken lines resembling meander, swastikas, triskeles were introduced into decoration of the ornaments. Engraved notches resembling zigzag line, stamped like a wave semicircles were pretty often used to adorn ornaments: belt – buckle plates, scabbard – mounts, horse trappings and

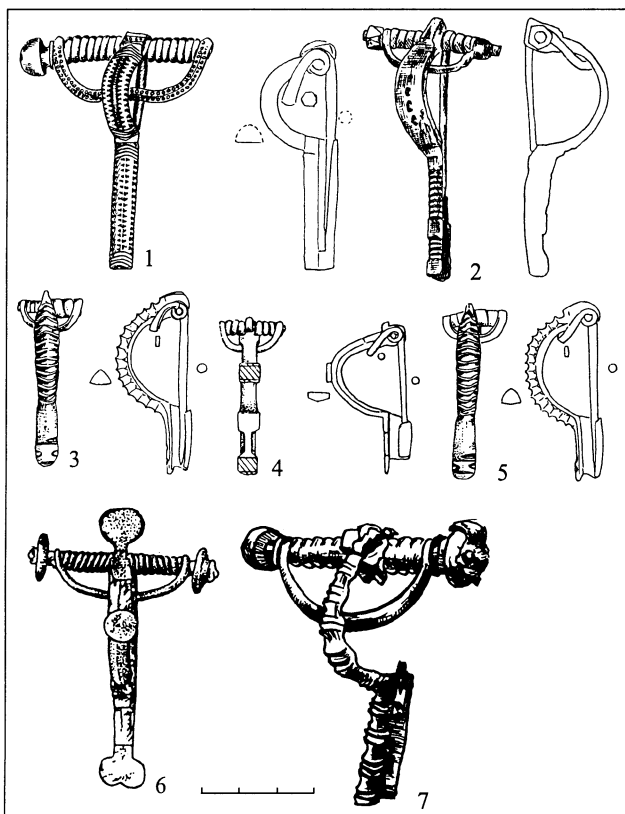


Fig. 1. Crossbow brooches with long narrow feet and cast catch – plates. 1 – Plinkaigalis, grave 40; 2 – Vilkiatūnis, barrow 2, grave 1; 3, 5 – Žviliai, grave 261; 4 – Riklikai, barrow 13, LNM AR 499: 86; 6 – Kalniškiai, grave 39; 7 – Kukiai, hoard 2 (1–5 – LNM AR C; drawings by Audronė Ruzienė; 6 – according to Astrauskas, Gleiznienė, Šimėnas, 1999, fig 3; 7 – according to Cholodinska, 1973; 1, 5, 7 – bronze; 2 – iron; 6 – bronze covered by white metal).

other artifacts. Geometrical ornamentation patterns of Baltic tribes in the fifth – sixth centuries are characterized by use of the “star” motif, which came from Scandinavia with Sösdala style. In Baltic lands the “star” motif has its special Baltic expression (Åberg 1919: 45, Abb. 43; Bitner-Wróblewska 1991: 49–81; Bliujienė 2000a: 103–104; Bliujienė 2001b: 14–16, fig. 9). Most of the numerous mentioned geometrical motifs of the Baltic decoration system disappeared at the end of the sixth century. Only a triangular, dot, circle, notches, “X” motifs of the Migration Period geometrical patterns did not lose their position in the latest decoration systems.

Along with the new geometrical designs of Baltic tribes, animal motifs appeared at the end of the fifth century. These geometrical as well as

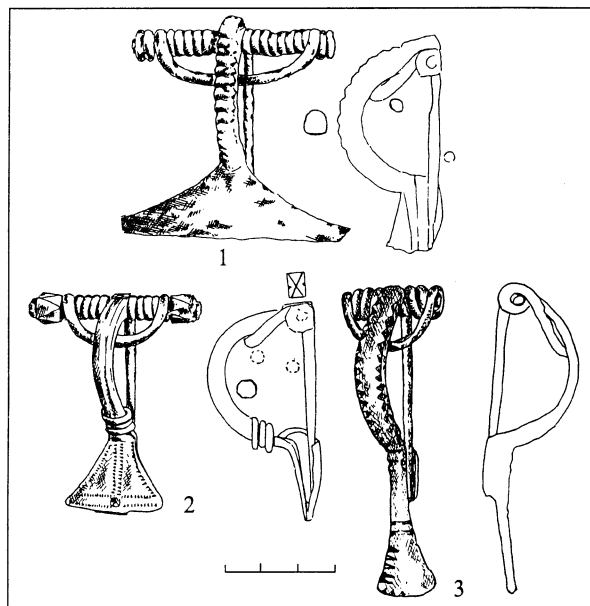


Fig. 2. Crossbow brooches with triangular feet: 1 – Plinkai-galis, grave 354; 2 – Plinkai-galis, grave, 37; Vilkiutinis, barrow 2, grave 2 (1–3 – LNM AR C; drawings by Audronė Ruzienė. 1, 3 – iron; 2 – bronze).

or the ends of the ornament were embellished by stamped geometrical pattern (Fig. 2: 3; 4).

Some previously unused by Baltic jewellers metalwork techniques appeared at the same time. They were chip-carving, nielloing, gilding, and covering of ornaments with embossed white metal plates. At the same time stamped decoration started to be the main way of covering of ornaments surface. All these new technologies were methods universally used across Europe. A lot of ornaments made from silver, gilded silver, bronze and iron or only iron appeared in the fifth–sixth centuries. It should be mentioned that rather often ornaments of the Migration Period are made of silver, or iron.

Imports as cultural ideas. Different types of crossbow brooches, bindings for drinking horns, belt buckles and their mounts as well as turned and semi-turned amber beads are known from Lithuanian cemeteries of the fifth–sixth centuries. A lot of these artifacts were imported from the Middle Danube area, Scandinavia, lower Vistula region, Mazurian Lakeland. Some of artifacts mentioned above, according to the imported examples, were manufactured somewhere in Baltic lands.

Jauneikiai, Plinkaigalis, Kalniškiai, Sauginiai, Vidgiriai, Marvelė, Žviliai, Baliuliai, Pavajuonys – Rėkučiai, Taurapilis should be mentioned as famous sites of the fifth–sixth centuries of Lithuania. Many imported artifacts are known from these burial grounds. These imports indicate contacts with Middle Europe, Scandinavia and other regions. Some of the imports should be mentioned especially. They are – a silver cicada-shaped brooch dated by the fifth–early sixth century – a stray find of Sauginiai burial ground (LNM AR 507: 60; Merkevičius 1984: 56, fig. 18: 2). The silver brooch with plates at its terminals, dated the fifth – early sixth century found

animal motifs were cultural wave of the Great Migration Period. The decoration of Baltic ornaments was much influenced by Sösdala, Sjö-rup, Nydam, Untersiebenbrunn and other more local styles of the middle of the forth–the first half of the fifth centuries (Forssander 1937: 183–272; Voss 1954: 171–230; Lund Hansen 1969: 63–102; Bliujienė 2000a: 104–107).

Schemes of geometrical ornamentation of the Roman Iron Age were quite different from those that started to be used in the middle of the fifth century. Ornamentation schemes of the early Migration Period are much more simply, sometimes only the edges

in the male grave 144, Plinkaigalis cemetery (Kazakevičius 1993: 113–114). However it should be mentioned that silver brooches with plates at its terminals have been worn in pairs only by Germanic and Hunnish women. The brooches – finds of Plinkaigalis and Sauginiai – are imports from the territory of present Hungary. Such fibulae are characteristic Hunnish artifacts (Bóna 1993, fig. 34).

Only two “Raupenfibeln” type brooches are known from a boy’s grave 261 at Žviliai cemetery from the present Lithuania territory (Fig. 1: 3, 5). Grave 261 from Žviliai cemetery belongs to the beginning of the fifth century. The fibulae from Žviliai are exact copies of “Raupenfibeln” of group I: 1 A (Tuszyńska 1998: 179, ryc. 1, 3: 1, 4; 1). Brooches of such type are known in the Wielbark culture area of the lower Vistula region and the Samland Peninsula (Tuszyńska 1998: 177–187). The brooches found at Žviliai grave 261, as well as a necklace of amber beads–pendants shaped as figure eight or breloque must have been imported from lower Vistula region.

For Baltic jewellers a “Raupenfibeln” was one of the factors which give an idea for making relief surfaces of an artifacts (Fig. 1: 7; 2: 1; 8: 1–3; 9; 12). Baltic jewellers using horizontal cord like incisions, strokes leaning right or left and other geometrical patterns started to achieve the effect or illusion of deeper relief as well (Fig. 1: 1–2; 8: 4; 11). In most cases, often as an experiment they used this for crossbow brooches with long narrow foot and cast-catch plate. Another huge cultural impact for Baltic jewellers to cover all the surface of the artifact by geometrical patterns was Sösdala, Sjörup, Nydam, Untersiebenbrunn styles of the middle of the forth–the first half of the fifth centuries and later Germanic animal style I and, perhaps, style II. All these influences were soon modified and adopted to satisfy the geometrical pattern taste of the Baltic tribes.

Crossbow fibulae with a lofty bow and short foot and a full cast-catch plates appeared mostly in eastern Lithuanian barrow cemeteries and burial grounds of central Lithuania in the graves of the fifth century (Fig. 3). These brooches were divided into two the so-called “Vilkonys” (Baliuliai, barrow 5, cremation 3; Diktarai, grave 1; Degsnė – Labotiškės, barrow 6; Eiguliai burial ground; Masiejūnai, barrow 14, cremation 1; Plinkaigalis, grave 358; Riklikai, LNM AR 499: 86; Taurapilis, barrow 5; Kalniškiai, grave 191 and stray find; Zabieliškės, barrow, 3 grave 2; Vilkonys, barrow 6) and “Pilvinai” (Aukštadvaris in cultural layer of the hill – fort; Veršvai,

graves 29, 74, 113–114; Poškai, barrow 2; Skersabalai, barrow) types (Gavrituxin 1989: 78–85; Tautavičius 1996: 193). Vytautas Kazakevičius called this type of brooches as “Riklikai” type (Kazakevičius 1998: 199). The brooches of both types in most cases were made of iron. They are only 5–7 cm long with a foot only 1.5–1.8 cm long. The brooches of the “Pilvinai” type have torqued or twisted bow (Fig. 3: 2). The brooches of the “Vilkonys” type have a bow of different cross – section (Fig. 3: 1). Sometimes the bow of the fibulae is decorated with small notches. The bronze brooches

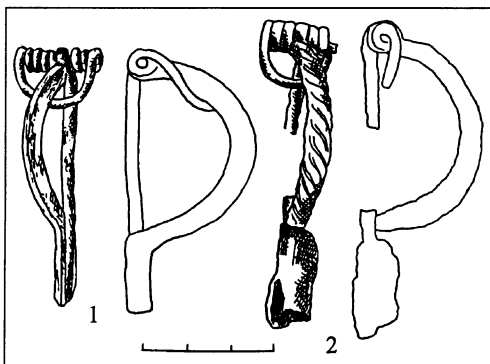


Fig. 3. Crossbow brooches of „Vilkonys” and „Pilvinai” types. 1 – Zabieliškės, barrow, 3 grave 2; 2 – Poškai, barrow 2 (1–2 LNM AR C; drawings by Audronė Ruzienė. 1–2 – iron).

of “Vilkonys” type from Riklikai, barrow 13, (LNM AR 499: 86) have rectangular plates at the middle of the bow and the end of the foot. These plates are decorated with geometrical motif – notches leaning to the left (Fig. 1: 4). Bronze crossbow fibula from Taurapolis chieftain grave in barrow 5 should be attributed to the “Vilkonys” type. Assemblage of this grave – sword scabbard bindings, sword belt buckles, a pendant – amulet, drinking horn bindings – are not only unique in Lithuania, but were manufactured in a middle Danubian and Scandinavian workshops (Tautavičius 1981: 18–43; Gimbutienė 1985: 129; Bliujienė 2000a: 105).

The prototypes of “Vilkonys” and “Pilviniai” brooches are known from provincial Roman art. Such type of the fibulae is known from Jatvingians barrows, Mazurian Lakeland, western part of Byelorussia. Some such fibulae are known from Latvia and Estonia (Moora 1938: 150–151). Both fibulae types are known from the middle Danube region, central European sites of south – western territory of Slovakia, Dniepr and its tributary, Western Bug till Vistula. Vistula was a direct route to the middle Danubian region (Gavrituxin 1989: 78–85; Blažek 1997: Abb. 3: 1–5; Szameit 1997: Tafel 5; 9–10). Lithuania is the northern territory with huge and compact enough concentration of fibulae of this type. However at the end of the fifth century this type of the fibulae disappeared without noticeable traces in shapes of ornaments and decoration.

Some crossbow bronze or silver brooches are known with a flat, wide and long bow in eastern Lithuanian barrow cemeteries of the fifth–sixth century. Such fibulae are with a bent foot. The end of the foot in such fibula is not bent around the bow but terminated by decorated rectangular plate (Fig. 4). Such terminating of the crossbow brooches is atypical to Baltic tribes. The crossbow brooches with long, flat and wide bow are about 11–15 cm long.

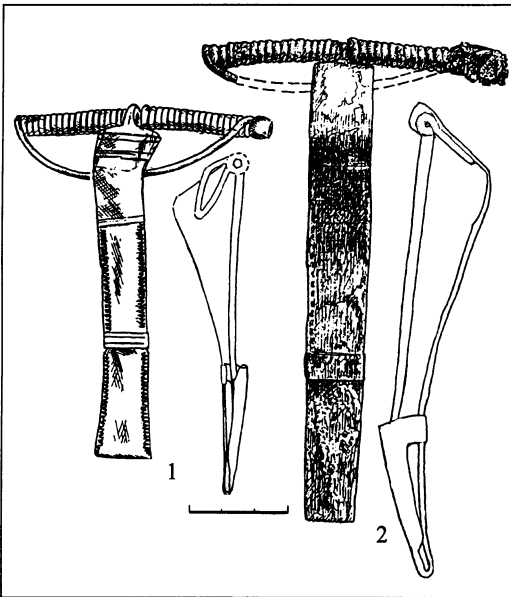


Fig. 4. Silver crossbow brooches. 1 – Laukininkai (Poliški) LNM AR 152: 1; 2 – Pavajuonys–Rėkučiai, barrow, 11, grave 2 (1 – LNM AR C; drawing by Audronė Ruzienė; 2 – according to Semėnas, 1996; drawing by D. Urbanavičiūtė).

In Lithuania such brooches are known from Baliuliai, barrow 11, grave 1; Pavajuonys – Rėkučiai, barrow 11, grave 2; Laukininkai, stray find (LNM AR 152: 1). Brooches of this type were found in rich inhumations along with other imports (Baliuliai, barrow 11, grave 1; necklace of 24 glass beads; Kliaugaitė 2000: 177). A high-ranking woman was buried in Pavajuonys – Rėkučiai barrow 11, grave 2 (fig. 4: 2). Not only a neck ring, but a string of 91 different colour glass beads and bronze spirals as well was found on the neck of the deceased woman. Two silver bracelets with thickened terminals, a spiral finger ring and two finger rings with flattened middle part were found in this high-ranking woman’s grave. The awl with wooden handle was fixed

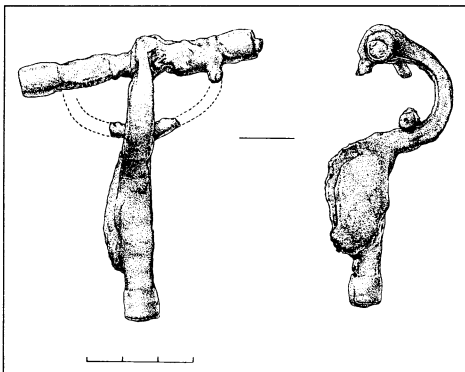


Fig. 5. Iron crossbow brooch from Sudata I, barrow, 30, grave 4 (Drawing by Izolda Maciukaitė; iron, bronze).

perhaps to the deceased woman's sash. A 14.5 cm long bronze fibula with a bent foot and a wide flat bow was found as an additional grave good (Semėnas 1998: 150–152). The surface of this fibula was covered with white metal plate that was decorated in stamped semicircles (Fig. 4: 2). The crossbow brooches with bent foot and wide flat bow are large and have pure stamped or engraved decoration at the edges of the ornament (semicircles, notches). These fibulae as well as their geometrical decoration are characteristic only of the graves of the fifth–sixth centuries. Similar brooches with wide flat bow and cast catchplate

are known from the middle Danube in the Early Migration Period.

Some atypical brooches are known in Lithuanian archaeological material of the Migration Period. They must have been imported to Lithuania or manufactured locally according to their foreign prototypes. One of such brooches was found at Sudata I barrow cemetery 30, in a high-ranking warriors' cremation grave 4 (Fig. 5). Not only the mentioned iron crossbow fibula with a long narrow foot belongs to this grave of the second half of the sixth century. Scabbard bindings decorated in animal motifs and spirals, silver neck ring, spearhead, axe, and shield boss were found here as well. The spring axle of the brooch instead of the end knobs has covering by bronze boxes. One bronze box terminate the foot of the fibula. The surface of the ornament is executed in low relief (Fig. 5). The scabbard bindings found in Sudata I, grave 4 is decorated in spirals, resembling scrolls. Animal head with almond eyes terminates the end of the bindings. Ornamental motifs of scabbard bindings are known from the second half of the fifth–sixth centuries. They are presented in fingered brooches, belt buckles plates, household items found in middle Europe, middle Danube territory, Mazurian Lakeland (Arbman 1945: fig. 1–10; Csallány 1961: fig. 10: 1–3, 6; plates CCVII–VIII, CCLI: 1; CCLXXII: 7; CLXXIV; Okulizc, 1973, fig. 245, 249, Näsman: 1984, Tafel 16: 1–5).

A bronze crossbow fibula with cast-catch plate beside a shoulder strap, two belt buckles, one more crossbow decorated with ringlets brooch, battle knife – dagger, spearhead, axe were found at the Kalniškiai high-ranking warrior's grave 39. Two horses and ritual horse offering (head of the horse) as well were buried with the warrior deceased at Kalniškiai grave 39. A metope plate on the spring is specific for the decoration of brooch with cast-catch plate (Fig. 1: 6). However, plate of the fibula from Kalniškiai is almost round. The next round plate adorned the middle of the bow and the third atypical plate terminated the end of the foot of the artifact (Fig. 1: 6). Perhaps the Smørenge variant brooches from Bornholm, which had a high profiled knob, influenced these atypical plates (Bither-Wróblewska 2000: 184, fig. 1: b). Trapeze – like metope plates on the springs of the fibulae became typical features for crossbow animal headed and long footed brooches of Curonians, Scalvians, Lettigallians, Semigallians in the sixth–ninth centuries.

Fibulae mentioned above mostly have been found in the cemeteries of central and eastern Lithuania since the fifth–sixth centuries. Only few of the specimens comes from western part of Lithuania (fig. 1: 3, 5, 7).

Abstract animal motifs. At the end of the fifth and the beginning of the sixth centuries Baltic tribes started to wear crossbow zoomorphic or animal headed brooches. In eastern Baltic area as well as in the Germanic world zoomorphic brooches held a special position. Also it should be mentioned that in Baltic society animal designs, especially in brooches were associated with high-ranking persons. Lithuanian archaeological material of the Migration Period shows that only high-ranking warriors and chieftains (an exception, Vidgiriai, woman grave 11) wore zoomorphic brooches.

Many scholars attempted to find out the origin of Baltic animal-headed brooches with the intention to describe and classify them (Åberg 1919: 93–97; Oxienstierna 1940: 219–252; Šturms 1950: 20–22; Werner 1970: 78–81; Kazakevičius 1983: 189–196; 1993: 106–109; Kulakov 1990: 204–215; 43). The last classification of crossbow animal-headed brooches based on stylistic development and chronology was proposed by a well-known Polish researcher Ana Bitner-Wróblewska (Bitner-Wróblewska 2000: 181–197; 2001: 77–88, 195–197). The author divided crossbow animal-headed brooches into Sensburg/Mragowo type and its variants. Specimens without relief decoration were attributed to this type. The chronology of this type covers the last few decades of the fourth century and the first half of the fifth century (Bitner-Wróblewska 2000: 189–191). According to A. Bitner-Wróblewska's classification the Daumen/Tumiany type brooches have relief decoration. The variant of these fibulae belongs to the second half of the fifth and the sixth century (Bitner-Wróblewska 2000: 191). However, in Lithuania and Latvia there were not found any artifacts decorated with animal motifs which should be ascribed to the end of the fourth and the first half of the fifth centuries. The first crossbow animal-headed fibulae appeared in Baltic lands at the end of the fifth – the beginning of the sixth century. Precise enough dating for these artifacts was given by grave goods of Plinkaigalis, grave 106, Vidgiriai, grave 2, 30, 32; Geistauti, grave 2. From the point of view of decoration brooches mentioned above are different. In the classification scheme proposed by A. Bitner-Wróblewska the crossbow animal-headed fibulae from the seventh–ninth centuries included to Sensburg/Mragowo Letto – Lithuanian type and its imitations are a part of the Baltic animal style (Jurgaičiai, graves 5, 22; Lazdininkai, graves 27, 36, 116; Oši Dobele, stray find; Bitner-Wróblewska 2000: 193–194). Crossbow fibula of the sixth century from Pagrybis (stray find; VDKM 709: 26) is attributed to the Sensburg/Mragowo Letto – Lithuanian variant as well. Brooches from Plinkaigalis (grave 107); Rubokai (grave 41); Vidgiriai (grave 11) involve into the Sensburg/Mragowo variant have expressive relief surface. As the author notes, brooches of Daumen/Tumiany type have relief surface, but decoration of the artifacts is different. This means that in the same type there are artifacts of a different cultural phenomenon.

It is possible propose a simple classification of the animal-headed crossbow brooches based upon three development stages of decoration and chronology (Magnus, Bliujienė, in print). These stages (groups) of development of ornamentation are characterized, first, by spiral ornament, second, by animal motifs in Style I or its variations, third, by Baltic interpretation of interregional animal style. The first two fibulae groups have typical relief surfaces. Most of the brooches of these

groups were manufactured of silver or gilded silver. The main matter is that animal motifs of the first two groups are based on Germanic styles. The zoomorphic crossbow brooches of the third group (Baltic variations) in most cases have a flat surface and this makes them different from prototypes. However, as it was mentioned above Baltic jewellers following interregional examples tried to make relief surface of fibulae, or a relief was imitated by geometrical patterns and bosses (Fig. 8–12: 1). Only a few zoomorphic fibulae of the period have really more or less a relief surface (Fig. 8: 1–3; 9; 12: 1).

The chronology of zoomorphic crossbow fibulae in the most cases is not simple. Some of these brooches are stray finds, others appear together with artifacts impossible to attach to any precise period. It means that borders between the groups are negotiable but the sequence of the decoration development is obvious: spirals ornament – Germanic animal styles – Baltic variation of the first two types of ornamentation. The first locally manufactured animal-headed brooches of the periods D2/D3 have not only an interregional character of ornamentation, but a lot of local variations. All artifacts found from this period are unique items and bear an impress of different influences. It makes difficult to set up exact typological series (Magnus, Bliujienė in print).

The crossbow brooches decorated with animal motifs and spirals. The spirals, which adorned the first group of the brooches, are different. Some of them are similar to “S” and reverse “S”, others are like the so – called “running dog”. Some of the spirals resemble scrolls or trumpets. Brooch from Vidgiriai, grave 2 has stylistic features resembling Sösdala style. The fibula from Plinkaigalis, grave 106 is attributed to Sjörup style, the early stage of Style I (Kazakevičius 1983: 195). Fibulae of this type have crossbow or “Armbrustfibel” construction.

Zoomorphic crossbow brooches decorated in various spirals are known in eastern Baltic area from Waldeck and Rombinusberg stray finds, Vidgiriai, grave 2, Plinkaigalis, grave 106. One brooch was found in central Lithuania, two in the lower basin of river Nemunas and river Jūra mouth regions, and one in eastern Prussia. These brooches are made of gilded silver or bronze. The surface of these fibulae is executed in low relief. All intact fibulae have hemispherical knobs at the ends of the spring axis. The bow and the foot are executed with spirals in niello inlays. The feet of the brooches are more realistic or have rather abstract heads of forward-looking animals. Decoration ideas of this group of artifacts came from Scandinavia or from middle Europe through Scandinavia. Brooches of this group could be products from southern part of East Baltic area and, perhaps, not of one workshop. Brooches of this group should belong to the end of the fifth – the beginning of the sixth century.

The crossbow brooches decorated in Germanic Style I (second group). Such fibulae were found at Ćeistauti, grave 2, Ošbirze, stray find, Vidgiriai, grave 32, Daumen (Tumiany), grave 38 and stray find, Popelken, grave 6, Schlakalnen, grave 25 and Angerburg, stray find. Characteristic features of style I are partition of animal bodies, fragmentation and schematization of animal figurines. Addition of geometrical motifs along with animal motifs is characteristic of the Baltic variation of this group. The crossbow zoomorphic brooch from Vidgiriai, grave 30 also should be ascribed to this group (Fig. 6). However, there is no analogue found for this fibula.

The crossbow brooches decorated in Germanic animal Style I, and found in Baltic lands, have a separate chord, spring – axle, end knobs and attachment.

Such brooches are called “Kragenfibel” crossbow fibulae (Oxenstierna 1940: 245; Nowakowski 1998: 127). All parts of these brooches were cast in separate moulds. In fact Baltic animal-headed brooches of the sixth century with such technological innovation are known only as exceptions (Jauneikiai, grave 381; Miklas Kalns, number of the grave – unpublished; Petraičiai and Stačiūnai, stray finds). Only at the end of the seventh – the tenth centuries Baltic jewellers separated chord, spring and attachment of the brooches.

The zoomorphic crossbow brooches of the second group are known from several areas: south – west Latvia, the lower Nemunas and Jūra mouth regions, Samland Peninsula, and the Mazuren Lakeland.

The brooches of the second group should have been imported to Lithuania and Latvia from Scandinavia or Mazuren Lakeland. Due to huge mutual relations of Olsztyn group people with middle Europe and Scandinavia it is possible that such brooches were produced somewhere in Mazuren Lakeland. One of such brooches was found at Gråborg (Öland), another only as a casting mould is known from Hêlgo settlement (Werner 1970: 78–80, Tafel 8: 1). Quite possible, that such fashionable fibulae were made in workshops, located in different areas. However, such designs, as well as technology are not typical to the Baltic ornamentation system of this period.

Baltic crossbow zoomorphic brooches made according to Germanic prototypes (third group). These fibulae were manufactured in eastern Baltic region and Lithuania by local handicraftsmen Baltic jewellers of several different workshops trained in very close stylistic trends produced artifacts adorned with animal motifs. However, local handicraftsmen applied different artistic and technical standards and produced their own version of current fashion, without maintaining any direct contacts with each other. This tendency is well illustrated by Baltic crossbow zoomorphic brooches. All of them are quite different (Fig. 8–12: 1). It is possible to indicate a workshop in Semigallians land, between rivers Mūša and Lielupe.

Elaborating crossbow brooches with long narrow feet and cast-catch plates Baltic jewellers transformed the feet into more or less realistic animal heads (Fig. 8–12: 1). The animal on the brooch foot was given “eyes”, “nostrils” and “forehead” (Fig. 8: 1, 3–4; 9). Two small warts also adorned heads of this animal (Fig. 8–10). In rare cases not only the foot of the brooch, but even the terminal of the bow was transformed into more or less abstract head of animal (Fig. 8: 2, 4; 9). Some of a fibulae just only end of a feet mark out in abstract animal head without any more or less realistic details (Fig. 11). However, at the end of the sixth–the seventh century jewellers working in Baltic animal style changed the animal on the end of the bow into more or less rectangular plate, or trapeze – like metope.

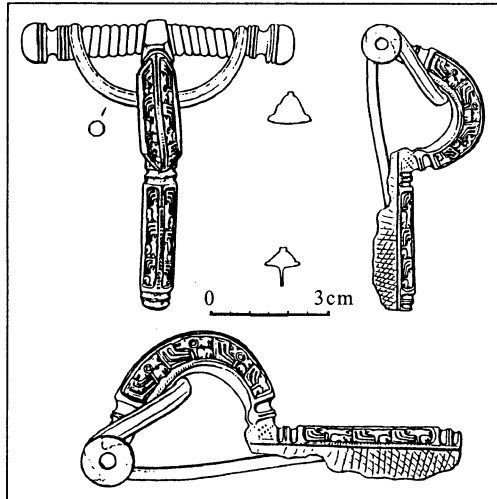


Fig. 6. Gilded silver crossbow brooch from Vidgiriai, grave 30 (Drawing by Virgilijus Truklickas).

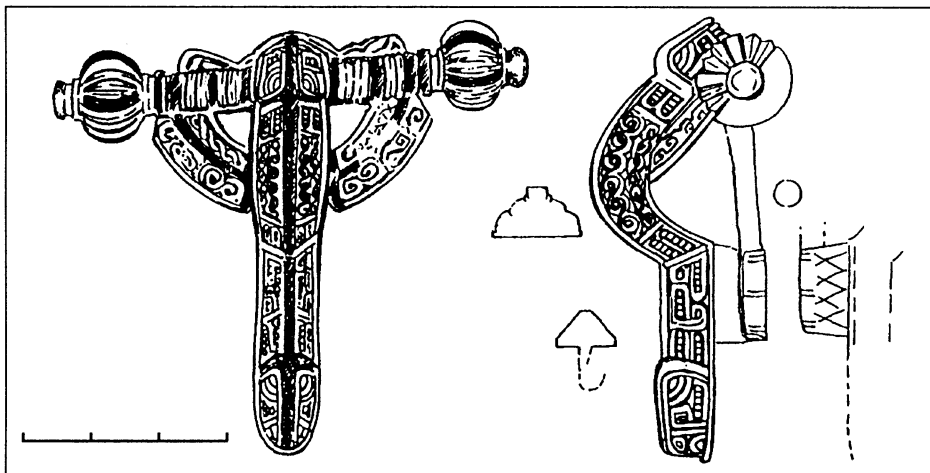


Fig. 7. Gilded silver crossbow brooch from Vidgiriai, grave 32 (LNM AR C; drawing by Audronė Ruzienė).

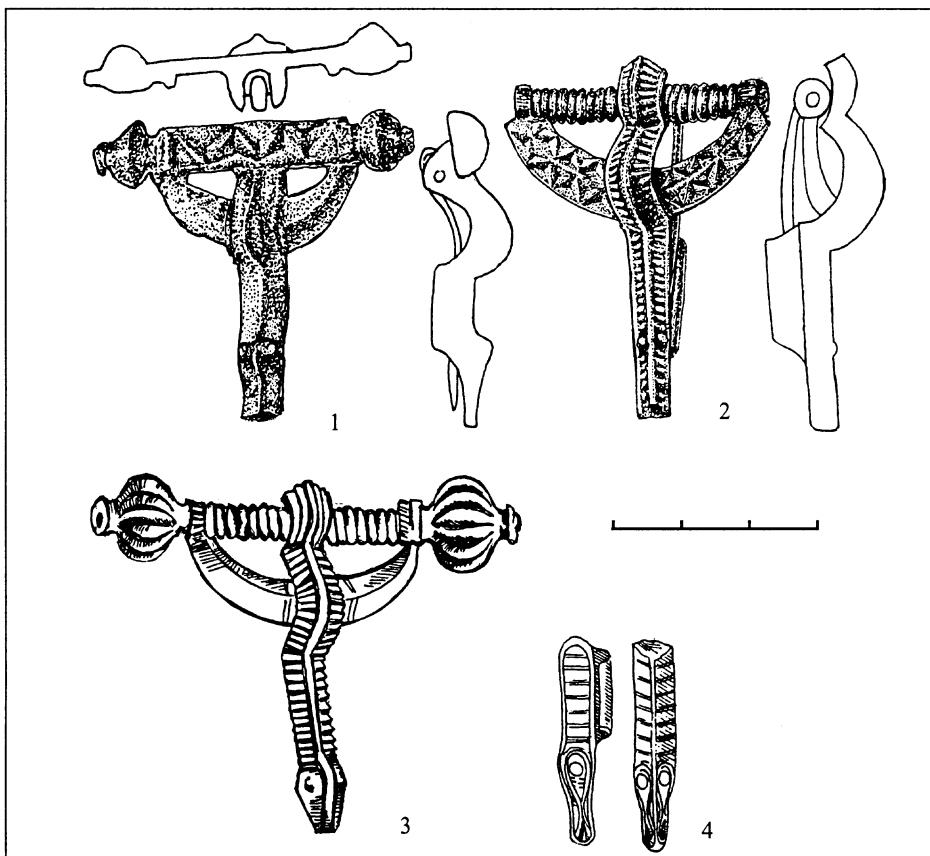


Fig. 8. Bronze crossbow animal headed brooches. 1 – Petraičiai, stray find; ŠAM 695; 2 – Šukioniai, stray find; ŠAM 623; 3 – Jauneikiai, grave 381; Budraičiai, stray find (1–2 – drawings by Haris Ostašenkovas; 3 – LNM AR C; drawing by Audronė Ruzienė; 4 – according to Tautavičius, 1996, pav. 93).

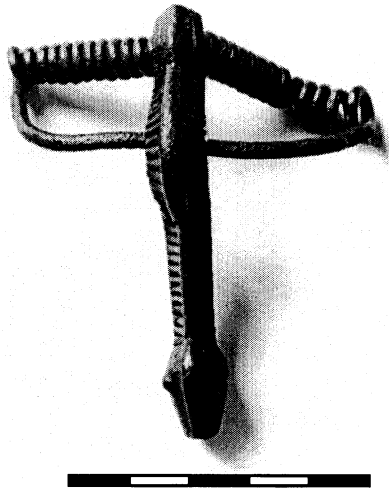


Fig. 9. Bronze crossbow animal headed brooch from Gibaičiai cemetery (foto by Janina Siliūnaitė; ŠAM 248).

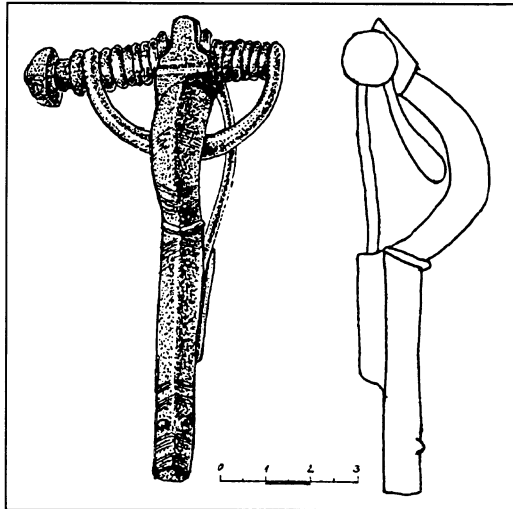


Fig. 10. Bronze crossbow animal headed brooch from Spirakiai cemetery (drawing by Haris Ostašenkovas; ŠAM A – L 55:3).

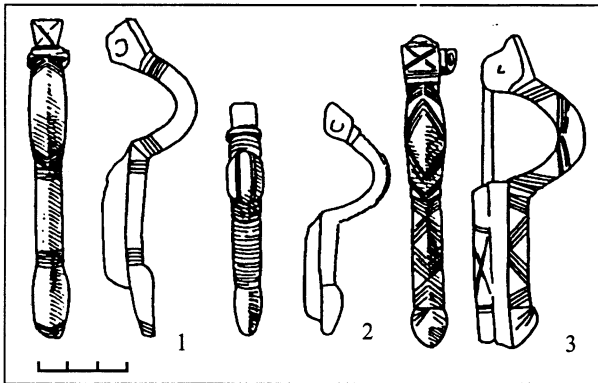


Fig. 11. Bronze crossbow animal headed brooches from Ošieniki cemetery (according to Vasks A., Virse I. 1990, att. 30).

Brooches from Budraičiai, Gibaičiai, Jauneikiai, Petraičiai, Spirakiai, Šukonyšs should be attributed to a several Semigallian workshops. Stylistically very close animal headed crossbow brooches were found at Jauneikiai (grave 381; fig. 8: 3) and Gibaičiai (stray find, ŠAM 248; fig. 9) cemeteries. The brooch from Jauneikiai is "Kragenfibel" type. The fibula found at Gibaičiai is "Armbrustfibel" type (Oxenstierna 1940: 245). The fibula from Jauneikiai grave 381 has a little more sharper relief. It is possible that both brooches are manufactured in the same Semigallian workshop. It should be mentioned, that brooch from Petraičiai (stray find; ŠAM 695) is a Baltic variant of such fibulae as found at Vidgiriai 32, Daumian (Tumiany), grave 38, Ėgeistauti, grave 2. The brooch from Petraičiai is Baltic expression of interregional Germanic technology and stylistic features (Fig. 7; 8: 1). The sixth century fibula from Šukonyšs (stray find; ŠAM 623) is an early variant of a crossbow brooches with poppyseed knobs (Fig. 8: 2). The fibula from Spirakiai (stray find; ŠAM A – L 55: 3)

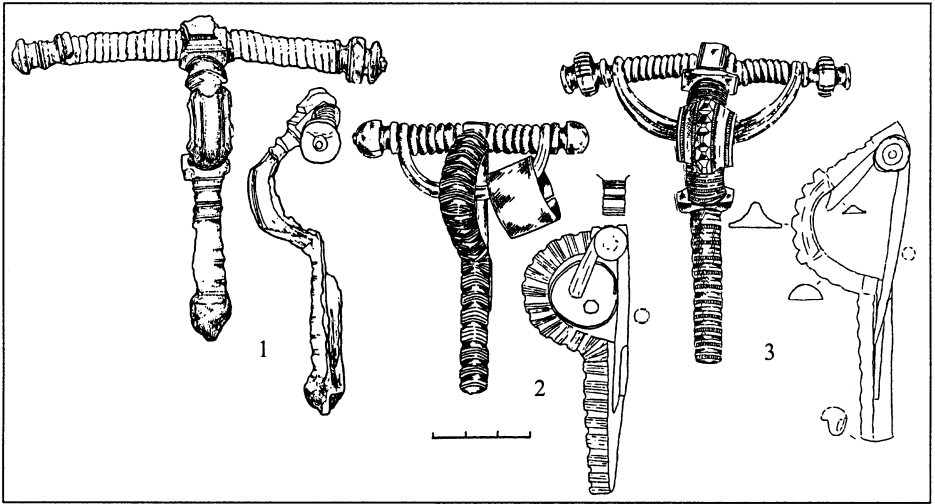


Fig. 12. Bronze crossbow brooches. 1 – Vidgiriai, grave 11; 2 – Plinkaigalis, grave 52; 3 – Plinkaigalis, grave 353 (1 – drawing by Virgilijus Truklickas; 2–3 – LNM AR C; drawings by Audronė Ruzienė).

has close stylistic links with Curonians and Samogitians animal headed brooches with long narrow feet and warts (Fig. 10; Bliujienė 2000b: Fig. 6).

At the end of the fifth – the beginning of the sixth century there appeared a small subtype – third A group in lower reaches of the Nemunas and its tributaries Nevėžis and Šešupė. Relief surfaces of the artifact and abstract animal motifs on the foot of the brooch are characteristic of brooches of the third A group (Fig. 12: 1). To this subtype fibula found at Plinkaigalis, graves 353, should be attributed. However, the foot of these fibulae were not terminated with an abstract animal head (Fig. 12: 3). Some of fibulae of this subgroup have ribs, the so – called “cock-scombs” in the middle of the bow. Brooches of the third A group are known from Vidgiriai, grave 11; Plinkaigalis, graves 107, 353; Rubokai, grave 41. The fibulae of this type demonstrate perfect interflow of decoration and transformation of Germanic animal styles to Baltic expression.

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Translated by Aleksandras Pleskačiauskas

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Daumen (Tumiany), Olsztyn dist., Poland

Degsnė – Labotiškės, Molėtai dist. BC

Diktarai, Anykščiai dist. BC

Eiguliai, Kaunas city FB

Ėgistauti, Liepājas dist, Latvia dist. FB

Gibaičiai, Šiauliai dist. FB

Griniūnai, Panevėžys dist. FB

Jauneikiai, Joniškis dist. FB

Jėkabpils, Jėkabpils dist. FB

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Miklas Kalns, Jelgava dist. Latvia FB

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Pagrybis, Šilalė dist. FB

Petraičiai, Šiauliai dist. FB

Plinkaigalis, Kėdainiai dist. FB

Popelken (Prudovka), Cherhiahovsk dist., Kaliningrad region, Russia. FB

Poškai, Šalčininkai dist. BC.

Oši Dobeļe, Jelgava dist, Latvia, FB

Ošieniki, Liepājas dist, Latvia dist. FB

Riklikai, Anykščiai dist. BC

Rombinusberg (near Sovetsk, former Tilsit; Kaliningrad region, Russia) FB

Taurapolis, Utena dist. BC

Sauginiai, Šiauliai, dist. FB

Schlakalnen (Jaroslavskoje), Zelinogradsk dist., Kaliningrad region, Russia. FB

Skersabalai, Vilniaus dist. BC

Spirakiai, Joniškis dist. FB.

Sudata I, Švenčionys dist. BC

Šukioniai, Pakruojo dist. FB

Veršvai, Kaunas city. FB

Vidgiriai, Šilutė dist. FB

Vilkiautinis, Varėna dist. BC

Vilkonys, Šalčininkai dist. BC

Waldek (Osokino, Bagrianovsk dist. Kaliningrad region, Russia) FB

Zabieliskės, Šalčininkai dist. BC

Žviliai, Šilalės dist. FB.

Abbreviations

BC – Barrow cemetery

FB – Flat burial ground

HF – Hill-fort

Publications

ATL – Archeologiniai tyrinėjimai Lietuvoje, Vilnius.

LA – Lietuvos archeologija, Vilnius

MAD,A – Lietuvos TSR mokslų akademijos darbai. Serija A. Vilnius.

Museums and scientific institutions

LII. F 1 – Institute of Lithuanian History. Archive. Vilnius.

LNM AR C – Lithuanian National Museum, Department of Archeology, Catalog. Vilnius.

ŠAM – Šiauliai Museum „Aušra“, Šiauliai.

VDKM – Vytauto Didžiojo karo muziejus, Kaunas.

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Pagrindiniai Didžiojo tautų kraustymosi laikmečio baltų lankinių segių stilistiniai bruožai

AUDRONĖ BLIUJENĖ

Santrauka

Didžiojo tautų kraustymosi laikais, kaip ir Senajame geležies amžiuje, baltų genčių gyventa teritorija ir kultūra išliko viena iš stabiliausių centrinės Europos regione. Tačiau I tūkstantmečio viduryje baltų gentis palietė Didžiojo tautų kraustymosi procesai ir jų atgarsiai. Šiame laikotarpyje baltų gentys patyrė nemažų socialinių, teritorinių ir kultūrinių pasikeitimų. Tuo metu dėl pasikeitusio gyvenviečių tinklo, pasikeičia tarpentiniai prekybos keliai, susiformuoja visos gentys, žinomos iš vėlesnių rašytinių šaltinių. Vakarų baltai, gyvenę Sambijos pusiasalyje ir Oištyno kultūrinė grupė dėl prekybos gintaru buvo vieni iš turtingiausių baltų regionų. Intensyvios prekybos dėka I tūkstantmečio viduryje baltų teritorijoje randama gana daug importinių dirbinių, kurie buvo kultūrinis postūmis, sekant naujomis idėjomis kurti naujos stilistikos dirbinius.

Senajame geležies amžiuje baltų gentys savo papuošalus dekoravo geometriniais ornamentais. Baltų ornamento sistemoje geometriniai motyvai išlieka ir I tūkstantmečio viduryje, tačiau jie labai pakinta. Atsiranda naujų, iki tol baltų juvelyrų nenaudotų geometrinių motyvų („X“, pusapskritimis, trikampis, trikampis su įvairiais papildymais viduje, rombas, „liepų“ lapų pavidalo motyvas, įvairios spirалės, primenančios „S“ ir atvirkščią raidę „S“; 1–4 pav.). Su Sösdala stiliumi baltų papuošalų dekore atsiranda „žvaigždės“ motyvas. Dauguma minėtų motyvų VI a. pabaigoje iš baltų ornamentinės sistemos išnyksta. Tik kai kurie naujai atsiradę geometriniai motyvai tęsia savo kelionę į vėlesnes ornamentines struktūras (trikampis, „X“). I tūkstantmečio viduryje, lyginant su ankstesniu laikotarpiu, pakinta ir papuošalų dekoravimo schemas. Nagrinėjamame laikotarpyje atsiranda ir naujų papuošalų gamybos technologijų. Tai reljefiniai paviršiai, sidabravimas, auksavimas, juodinimas, papuošalų dengimas balto metalo plokštelėmis. Pažymėtina, kad V–VI a. randama daug papuošalų gamintų iš sidabro, geležies, žalvario dengto įvairiomis balto metalo dangomis.

Jauneikiai, Plinkaigalis, Kalniškiai, Sauginiai, Vidgiriai, Marvelė, Žviliai, Baliuliai, Pavajuonys – Rėkučiai, Taurapolis – tai bene žymiausi tyrinėti Viduriniojo geležies amžiaus pradžios Lietuvos laidojimo paminklai. Juose randama importuotų papuošalų (1: 3, 5 pav.). Kai kurie jų atkeliavo iš Vielbarko kultūros. Straipsnyje importuoti dirbiniai minimi norint parodyti ne tik plačius Lietuvos baltų genčių prekybinius ryšius, bet ir nusakyti kultūrinę tokių ryšių svarbą. Daugialypių kultūrinių įtakų pasekoje V–VI a. baltų papuošalų formos ir ornamentika yra ne tik kupinos inovacijų, bet svarbu, kad šios naujovės tapo kūrybiniais impulsais kuriant baltiškų tipų papuošalus (1: 1–2; 2; 8–12 pav.).

Centrinės Lietuvos kapinynuose ir Rytų Lietuvos pilkapinyuose, V a. kapuose, randamos nedidelės, dažniausiai geležinės lankinės segės trumpa kojele ir aukštu liemenėliu. Tokios segės suskirstytos į du tipus – „Vilkonių“ ir „Pilvinių“ (3 pav.). Nors tokių segių yra rasta Latvijoje ir Estijoje, bet Lietuva yra šiauriausia

kompaktiška šių segių paplitimo teritorija. Abiejų šių segių tipų prototipai ir paplitimo regionas veda į Centrinę Europą ir Dunojaus vidurupio regioną.

Iš V–VI a. Rytų Lietuvos pilkapių žinomos kelios stambios sidabrinės lankinės segės ilgu, plokščiu ir plačiu liemenėliu ir trumpa palenkta kojele (4 pav.). Gamybos technologija šias seges skiria nuo baltiškųjų segių variantų. Rytų Lietuvoje randamų segių kojelė neapsukta aplink liemenėlį, bet tarsi jį apgaubia. Be to, segių kojelės ir liemenėlio sandūra baigiasi plokšte. Segės dekoruotos būdingais V–VI a. geometriniais motyvais – pusapskritimiais, zigzago pavidalo įkartomis.

Išskirtinė segė rasta turtingame degintiniame Pavajuonio–Rėkučių kario kape (pilkapis 30, k. 4; 5 pav.). Čia, be kitų daiktų, rasta, matyt, kovos peilio makštų apkalo dalis. Pastarasis dirbinys turi aiškias analogijas Dunojaus vidurupio diržo sagčių apkalų formoje ir dekore, o taip pat pirštuotųjų segių puošyboje.

Visoje gausioje V–VI a. lankinių segių grupėje išsiskiria žalvarinė segė, rasta turtingame vyro, dviejų jo žirgų ir žirgo aukos kape 39 Kalniškių kapinyne. Ši segė su dobilo lapelio pavidalo kojele analogijų baltiškoje medžiagoje neturi (1: 6 pav.).

V a. pab.–VI a. pr. baltų genčių gyventoje teritorijoje išplinta lankinės zoomorfinės segės (6–11 pav.). Jau XX a. pradžioje atkreiptas dėmesys į šiuos išskirtinai reikšmingus baltų vyrų papuošalus. Tipologizuojant lankines zoomorfines seges naudojamos kelios klasifikacijos schemos, vieną jų pasiūlė garsi lenkų mokslininkė Ana Bitner-Vrublevska. Autorė, remdamasi segių reljefiškumu ir chronologija, suskirstė lankines zoomorfines seges į Sensburgo/Mrongovo (segės be reljefinio paviršiaus, priklauso paskutinėms dviem IV a. ketvirčiams – V a. pirmajai pusei) ir Daumianų/Tumianų (segės su reljefiniu paviršiumi, datuojamos antrąja V a. puse–VI a.) tipus ir jų variantus. Tačiau Lietuvoje ir Latvijoje nerasta ne tik segių, bet ir jokių kitų dirbinių, dekoruotų zoomorfiniais motyvais, datuotinių IV a. pabaiga–V a. pradžia.

Yra galima ir paprastesnė lankinių zoomorfinių segių klasifikavimo schema, besiremianti segės dekoravimo ypatumais ir chronologija. Pirmajai lankinių segių grupei priklauso lankinės zoomorfinės segės, dekoruotos įvairaus pavidalo spiralėmis (Sösdala, Sjørupo stiliaus įtakų ribos). Antroji šio tipo segių grupė remiasi tarpregioninėmis germaniškėmis įtakomis. Trečios grupės segės yra baltiškasis V a. pabaigos–VI a. zoomorfiniai dirbiniai besiremiantys transformuotomis pirmųjų dviejų segių grupių stilistinėmis naujovėmis.

Kaip VI a. baltiško varianto lankinių zoomorfinio segių gamybos vieta išsiskiria žiemgalių gyventa teritorija, apimanti platų regioną tarp Mūšos ir Lielupės upių. Čia rastos dekoru ir gamybos technologija panašios segės (8–11 pav.). Be to, akivaizdu, kad Stiliaus I dirbiniai veikė baltiškųjų variantų lankinių zoomorfinių segių konstrukciją ir dekorą (7; 8: 1 pav.).

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